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Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF EX-SLAVES

(Continued from page 3)

slaves but men and women often went together and considered themselves married when no ceremony had been performed. The master paid no attention to their relationship and reproduction unless it was in an extreme case wherein the parties involved became extremely rude. One man often claimed several wives. Little difference was shown as a man and his wife, or so-called wife, might have or might not have lived together in the huts. A man was not responsible for the support of the family as they all belonged to the owner; that is they belonged to the master of the slaves.

"No license was seen, yet you had to marry and live together as one happy family. Not a man was allowed to fight or mistreat his wife, whether she was in the wrong or right. Not a man was allowed to bring a girl to disgrace; for all men were made to stay in their places, or marry the girl and support her with a smile. As a whipping was the gift given without style. Old master read the matrimony from the book of God. They needed no witness to sign, for he was king and lord; just you live together and do as he said or take the bull whip's lashes over your head.

The sanctity of this slave (so called) family was not at all regarded by the master as witness the following:

"Rosetta Winn was sold from Virginia and brought into Louisiana. She was sold away from her little baby that was only nine months old. She never saw or heard from the child any more, though Rosetta lived to be about eighty-five years old. This disregard of the family was of common occurrence. This idea of forced separation occurred more than once in our investigations as the next two quotations show. We shall see it elsewhere also. It had a very definite effect upon the love and devotion of members of a slave family, one toward the other. In fact, it developed a sort of fatalism out of which Negroes have not yet grown."

"The slaves were often put upon the auction block and sold away without any regard for family ties.

"Family ties were often broken when an owner decided to sell slaves. The relationship of the slaves was not regarded in the marketing process. On many occasions family unions were completely broken. Sometimes members of a family thus separated met again—many more did not and will never see each other again. These conditions led the slaves to have but little respect for each other as far as blood relationships went. Yet there were those who were warmly devoted to each other and strove to live in the bounds of one another and who cared for their young as much as they were permitted.

"Broomstick marriage may be regarded as the most elementary ceremony given to slaves. The custom is most interestingly described in quotations below. Although the expression 'jumping over the broomstick' has been familiar from my youth up, I must confess that I did not know that it had a basis in fact. The quotations will bear careful reading.

"Next she was made to jump the broomstick as a form of marriage. Not understanding the marriage vow (she was fifteen years of age and had been brought up in Illinois and Missouri) she ran away that night to her mistress. There she remained and worked in the cotton fields until after the Civil War.

"When anyone married, all they had to do was to jump over a broom and they were man and wife. Her mistress worried her about marrying. She did not want to marry. One night when she went to her room to retire, a large man had been locked in her room by her mistress. She managed to get away that night, (she was just a young girl). The next night her mistress tied her in the room with the man, who, she was told, was her husband.

"Their masters would often select husbands for the women and wives for the men. Many and many a time they had never seen or heard of each other. The wedding was very simple. A broom, that was made from sedge straws, tied with a string, was thrown upon the ground or floor by the master; the man would catch the woman by the hand and both jumped across that broom at the same time whereupon the master would pronounce them man and wife."

Mrs. Fannie White, ex-slave in Texas says:

"The old master at times picked a wife for a man slave. At other times, he gave the Negro man the woman of his choice. They both had to jump over a broom together after which they were called man and wife. This was considered marriage for Negro slaves.

"The marriage was not the same on every plantation. Some places they would really marry and sometimes they would have a marriage feast. And some would marry by jumping over the broom. But if in case they would have a marriage feast it was just some feast—a hog, a cow, and everything that was enjoyed in those days by the people of that time.

Next we come to those "readings" for the Bible or other books and actual ceremonies. Quotations here are rather representative and descriptive. The first says:

"When anyone on this plantation wanted to marry the master would read a section from the Bible and declare them man and wife."

"Another ex-slave says that if his master heard a man say he liked a woman, he would call the two up and announce them man and wife. Sometimes one or two

N. B. EDWARD NAMES CENTENNIAL PRESS COMMITTEE

Dallas, Texas., Jan. 7.—Principal W. R. Banks, State Chairman, Negro Participation in the Texas Centennial, informs that the Texas Negro press Association may have an exhibit at the Centennial in Dallas, displaying periodicals, newspapers and magazines, and all other phases of job and press work done by the Negro Press in Texas. This is a great opportunity, conforming to the expressed desire of the Press Association in San Antonio, authorizing the president to take such steps he considered necessary in the premises.

The Texas Negro Press Association's President, N. B. Edwards, appoints the following Press Centennial Committee, whose duties shall be to secure, receive, place and display exhibits of the Texas Negro Press at the Centennial Buildings, and to record and report funds received and expended:

Press Centennial Committee

J. P. Hampton, Editor Texas Methodist Magazine, Chairman. W. H. Pace, Editor Dallas Express. Mr. Williamson, Rep., The Informer. Mrs. Lillian T. Lewis, Sec'y, Dallas N. A. A. C. P., G. C. Bell, Instructor in Printing, Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas. R. A. Hester, Knights of Pythias. J. H. Owens, Editor Dallas Gazette. J. R. Starks, Editor Western Index. A. Maceo Smith, Secretary Negro Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. L. H. Edward, Artist and Contributor. F. W. Thomas, Editor The Bear. Raymond L. Melton, Fort Worth Mind.

The Committee should meet at once, organize and formulate plans and procedures for effective results. Dallas is the place where the Centennial will be held and we are looking especially to those members in and near Dallas to carry forward our plans. It will be impossible for those of us living far away from Dallas to attend all the committee meetings.

verses of the Bible or lines from another book were read."

"The master would perform the marriage ceremony by reading a portion from the Bible. If the husband lived on another plantation he could come to see his family on Sunday, sometimes, or nights in the week. Some children never saw their fathers."

Whenever the master allowed the marriage ceremony, a marriage (especially of a favored slave) meant a festive occasion."

"On certain occasions of a festive nature, the slaves were given dainty foods and sometimes wine by their owners. If a marriage between couples the owner liked occurred on the plantation he (the master) would treat the slaves to a big dinner consisting principally of pigs taken from the pasture."

(To Be Continued)

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No. 5

Negro Extension Service Agents

State of Texas

Headquarters, Prairie View State College
Prairie View, Texas

Official Staff:

C. H. Waller, State Leader; H. S. Estelle, District Agent; J. H. Williams, District Agent; Mrs. I. W. Rowan, Supervising District Home Demonstration Agent; Mrs. J. O. A. Conner, District Home Demonstration Agent; Mrs. W. H. Gilmore, Secretary.

County Agricultural Agents:

Anderson County, F. J. Robinson; Palestine, Texas

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Fayette County, Emmett Randolph; La Grange, Texas

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Hopkins County, Talton L. Wedgeworth; Sulphur Springs, Texas

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Limestone County, S. M. Merriwether; 202 North Beeknap Street, Mexia, Texas

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Matagorda County, Nolan S. Stevens; Bay City, Texas

McLennan County, J. V. Smith; 131½ South Second Street, Waco, Texas

Milam County, W. H. Phillips; Cameron, Texas

Montgomery County, Bennie T. Prince; Conroe, Texas

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Our Small Businesses

We note with pleasure the opening of a number of small business places by colored persons in Waco. It is a good sign. On the face it means that just that many local colored individuals have become interested in creating jobs for themselves and others of the race. Some of these small places are going to close their doors before the end of the year. But there will be much to be gained from their failures if our business men and women will but study the underlying causes of their demise. In the past the failure of Jones' small side street grocery has been looked upon as very much of Jones concern, but with more widely distributed small places of business among us there will develop a common interest and cooperation among colored tradespeople. With their cooperation will come the ability to solve the problems peculiar to colored businesses.

Lack of business experience and no knowledge of the theory of modern business operation wrecks most of our commercial undertakings before they get started. The aims and purposes of modern business have been well defined and the individual business man whether small or large who is not operating in accord with the general spirit of business will have hard sailing. It would be well if local persons of our group operating businesses would form themselves into a commercial organization for the purpose of furthering their own interests. Older business heads among us should take the lead in such a program and bring to those just entering the commercial field the benefit of their experiences. The Waco Messenger hereby lends its influence and wholehearted cooperation to any movement designed to further cooperation among local business men and women of our group—The Waco Messenger

The above article should be read and re-read. The more often it is read, the more serious and worthy its implications become. The Messenger has sounded the proper note and pointed the way to successful business enterprises. What the Messenger so ably declares is good in principle for any business or any people. Business is business whether it be black or white. The fundamentals that govern Negroes in business are essentially the same as those governing any other people; the hard set rules of economics, long established and practiced by successful business men and women in all walks of life.

It is now certain, beyond peradventure, that avenues of employment for our people must be multiplied, broadened and

(Continued on page 3)

Common Communicable Diseases of Public Concern

BY DR. J. M. FRANKLIN

The object of this communication is to call these diseases to the attention of those to whom this article may come as greeting from the Department of Health of Prairie View College.

A few of the common infectious and more or less preventable ailments will be briefly considered, namely:

- (1) The Common Cold
- (2) Influenza or La Grippe
- (3) Pneumonia
- (4) Pulmonary Tuberculosis—"Consumption or T. B."

Due to the fact that the above diseases usually attack the respiratory tract, they are transmitted in the exhaled air by coughing and sneezing and in various discharges from the nose and throat.

Although we do not have a perfect prophylactic method for any of the above diseases, experience has shown vaccine therapy to be of some value in the treatment of the common cold, flu and possibly pneumonia.

The common cold, so lightly considered by many, is in many instances a predisposing factor to influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis. The inflammation set up in the tissues by colds the organisms responsible for these more serious ailments, have a better media in which to implant themselves and multiply. It follows, therefore, that colds should not be neglected as they often result in a more serious respiratory disease which may result in death.

In this connection, it is also well to remember that colds are highly contagious and where possible, should be isolated from non-infected persons. The usual measures of rest in bed with plenty of water to drink together with hot fluids will in most cases, be of great assistance in the abortion of a cold. However, if the patient shows no signs of improvement within twenty four hours, a physician should be consulted.

Since influenza is an aggravated cold, it should be treated in much the same manner as outlined above, using the same measures to prevent transmission of the disease from infected to non-infected individuals. Among the many complications following an attack of influenza are abscesses of the middle ear, sinusitis and pneumonia. Because of the rather high mortality associated with pneumonia, a physician should always be called when any symptoms of the disease are manifest. It is a safe measure, therefore, to call a doctor when a patient appears to be suffering from

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W. Rutherford BanksPrincipal
Napoleon B. Edward.....Executive Secretary

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Notice to Contributors
The Standard requests all professionals as well as the public in general to send articles for publication directly to the editor.

UNIT SHORT COURSE GRANTS
CERTIFICATES TO 37

The closing exercises of the Winter Short Course in Agriculture, Home Economics and Mechanic Arts were held at Prairie View State College with increasing interest and enthusiasm. The session ran ten days and the courses were of practical value reaching every phase of home life on the farm.

Closing remarks were made by Prof. G. L. Smith. The main address was delivered by Principal W. R. Banks congratulating the attendants and commending their accomplishments during the ten days.

Certificates were awarded as follows:
Mr. O. W. Anderson, Mr. T. M. Bailey, Mrs. A. B. Bledsoe, Mrs. Ella Mae Davis, Miss Hortense Davis, Mrs. G. A. S. Gooden, Mrs. N. N. Hall, Mr. P. L. Jackson, Mrs. Mamye Johnson, Miss Pearl Johnson, Mr. S. R. Jones, Mr. J. H. Leno, Mrs. J. H. Leno, Mr. Aaron Lilly, Mrs. R. L. McClinton, Mrs. M. S. Miller, Mrs. Maggie Moore, Mrs. E. Nathaniel, Mrs. M. E. Nathaniel, Mrs. J. H. Osby, Mrs. C. M. Owens, Mr. A. C. Phillips, Mrs. Annie L. Richards, Mr. Lester Sheperd, Mrs. W. R. Thompkins, Mrs. K. W. Toliver, Mr. A. H. Walker, Mr. Earnest Walker, Mrs. Earnest Walker, Mr. Mack Washington, Jr. Mrs. M. G. A. Washington, Miss Roxie Wells, Mr. J. H. Williams, Mrs. L. B. Williams, Mrs. P. E. Williams, Mrs. Ella Yancy, Mrs. L. E. Yell.

The total enrollment of the Short Course was 51. Number of certificates awarded—37.

Prizes were awarded by Dr. E. B. Evans to the following:

Blacksmithing
First Prize—One butcher knife to Lester Shepherd.
Second Prize—One claw hammer to O. W. Anderson.

Rope and Harness Work
First Prize—One pair of wagon lines to Lester Shepherd
Second Prize—One Rope halter to J. H. Leno.

Mattress Making
First Prize—One broom and mattress needle to Mrs. M. Moore.
Second Prize—One broom to Mrs. G. A. S. Gooden.

Poultry
First Prize—One mash hopper and setting of eggs to Mrs. G. A. Washington.
Second Prize—One mash hopper and setting of eggs to Mrs. W. R. Thompkins.
Third Prize—One mash hopper and setting of eggs to Mrs. M. E. Nathaniel.

Gardening and Canning
First Prize—Choice of 100 plants (cabbage, tomato, or sweet potato) to Mrs. R. Wells.
Second Prize—Choice of 50 plants to Miss Hortense Davis.
Third Prize—Choice of 25 plants to Mrs. N. N. Hall.

Sewing
First Prize—Material for curtains to Mrs. L. B. Williams.
Second Prize—Renovated garment to Mrs. G. A. Washington.

PRAIRIE VIEW LOANS TWO FACULTY
MEMBERS TO STATE AND NAT'L
GOVERNMENTS

Prairie View, January 20, — Two members of the faculty of Prairie View State College have been loaned to the State and federal governments.
Prof. L. A. Potts will serve in the federal bureau of Education and will be on leave of absence from his duties as director of agriculture at the State college for about six months. Dr. E. B. Evans, associate professor of agriculture and doctor of veterinary medicine, became acting-director during the absence of Prof. Potts.
Miss A. Crittendon Preston will serve in the state department of education, beginning with the second semester. Miss Preston will serve as supervisor of the experimental rural education venture. More specifically, her work will be an "experiment in coordinated efforts and re-arrangement of emphasis on subject matter for the improvement of rural education." Miss Preston will hold teachers' meetings once per week and visit the various schools in the districts. At first, her services will be confined to Cass, Houston and Lee counties, she said.

"I want to urge every farm family, in so far as possible, to include in their farm plans such features as will make it possible to produce, preserve and store an adequate food supply for home use and to produce adequate feed for livestock. This

NEGRO EXTENSION SERVICE
(Continued from page 1)

Newton County, Ernest A. Palmer; Newton, Texas
Robertson County, J. R. Delley; Box H. H., Hearne Texas
Rusk County, H. L. Brown; Henderson, Texas
San Augustine County, Walter K. Ball; San Augustine, Texas
Smith County, Raymond J. Butler; Box 314, Tyler Texas
Walker County, K. H. Malone; 1221 Avenue M, Huntsville, Texas
Waller County, Milton C. Sanders; Hempstead, Texas
Wharton County, N. N. Tarver; Box 401, Wharton, Texas
County Home Demonstration Agents:
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Milam County, Miss Eugenia A. Woods; Box 169, Cameron, Texas.
Navarro County, Mrs. Jessie L. Shelton; Box 760, Corsicana, Texas.
Rusk County, Mrs. Ethel W. Sadler;

economically sound program protects farming irrespective of government adjustment of crops."
—Mr. J. V. Bush, in Hempstead News

Box 88, Henderson, Texas.
San Jacinto County, Miss Hannah D. Dirdin; Box 35, Shepherd, Texas.
Smith County, Miss Joy Belle Sinyard; Box 314, Tyler, Texas.
Victoria County, Mrs. Mary N. B. Irving; Box 623, Victoria, Texas.
Waller County, Miss Hazel Tatum, Prairie View, College, Prairie View, Texas.
Washington County, Mrs. L. E. Lusk; Route 2, Box 19, Brenham, Texas.
Wharton County, Mrs. Beaula B. Savannah; Box 401, Wharton, Texas.

SOME COMMON COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES OF PUBLIC CONCERN

(Continued from page 1)
a very bad cold, hot and cold sensations usually accompanied by fever and pain in the right side of the chest made worse by breathing. Do not wait until blood stained sputum is coughed up but remember that pneumonia is a deadly disease and act accordingly. Since the disease enters through the nose and throat, measures designed to keep these passages in a healthy condition will lessen the chances of infection to a considerable degree.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis is still responsible for an excessive number of deaths in the human race. In spite of the measures employed for its prevention and cure by medical science, it continues to merit its sinister title, "The White Plague". Its prevalence among Negroes, compared to that among the Whites, is indeed a matter of grave concern to all members of the Race. Medical records have shown that Tuberculosis has increased in an alarming manner since the days of slavery which fact is a sad commentary on our freedom. As bad and undesirable as were our slave conditions, we have retrograded from the tuberculosis standpoint. It, therefore, behooves us to improve our public and personal hygienic conditions.

As a means of preventing the disease the following facts may be considered:

- (1) Prevention may, in a measure, be effected by avoiding all known and suspected sources of infection.
- (2) Improved living conditions are of invaluable assistance.
- (3) Proper rest and a well balanced diet are also essential.
- (4) The earlier manifestations of the disease may be shown by a complete physical examination. Especial attention should be given to the mouth, nose, throat, lungs and heart. Since Tuberculosis is predisposed by syphilis, a blood test for this disease should be taken in the course of the examination.

As there is no absolutely positive sign of the initial incidence of Tuberculosis, it is difficult to recognize early stages of the disease. There are, however, some early suspicious signs that may have a Tuberculosis background. These are easy fatigue, loss of weight, persistent hoarseness and a vari-

able evening rise of temperature.
Diagnosis by laboratory examination of morning sputum is not always possible in the early stages of the disease as the nodules containing the Tuberculosis organisms have not, in most cases, broken down. When this disintegration takes place, the disease is usually well established.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS
(1) Rest must be as nearly absolute as possible. Bed confinement is essential. To sit up even for a short while may give a back-set with recurrent rise of temperature or start a hemorrhage in advanced cases.
(2) The diet should be well balanced. Plenty of milk, fruits, meats, and vegetables should be taken
(3) Plenty of properly conditioned air should be available.
No attempt is made to survey comprehensively the above disease conditions but rather to direct attention to their more common aspects.
Subsequent releases on other important diseases will be issued during the year.

OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

(Continued from page 1)
lengthened, although we must undergo rigid training and encounter difficulties and occasional failures. Just as we have learned to be good teachers, good lawyers or good doctors, Negroes in larger numbers can become good business men. They can learn, more of them, to combine and manipulate capital in such way as to bring reasonable returns on investments. Until this is done, the Standard believes there will be few jobs the race can control or pass on to their posterity. As good Americans, we are not advocating business enterprises opened for Negroes only, but rather business by Negroes opened to all. We believe Negroes should swing wide their doors for business without racial discrimination or special favor, presenting a fair competition in goods and services rendered. When this is done through years of education, trial, and experience, no doubt more Negro enterprises will be on the road to progress and permanent establishment.

MISS JESSIE PULLIAM

Miss Jessie Pulliam, senior in the school of Home Economics at Prairie View State College, rendered able services at the Kitchen Chautauqua at Hempstead recently. Miss Pulliam assisted Miss Jessie Hogue in preparing the various foods for demonstration according to menus or recipes required from time to time.

A printer's life might oft be freed
Of pesky altercations,
If only he could find a way
To cut out alterations.

Out of the Mouths of
Ex-Slaves

Or Life on the Plantation as Depicted by
Former Bond Servants

By JOHN BROTHER CADE, A. M.
Prairie View State Normal and Industrial
College, Prairie View, Texas

FAMILY LIFE

In no phase of slavery do we find it more cruel and heartless than in family relationships. The utter helplessness of the slave both as regards the selection and retention of a bosom mate is clearly illustrated by the testimonies which are contained in this chapter. Nor did we find lacking instances in which the lord and master took advantage of his authority to force his attentions upon the powerless slaves.

Our investigations showed the following family conditions for the slave women:

- (a) Living with some Negro man without any type of ceremony.
- (b) Living with some Negro man following a broomstick ceremony.
- (c) Living with some Negro man following the reading of a passage from the Bible or other book.
- (d) Living with some Negro man following an actual marriage ceremony.
- (e) Living apart with varying degrees of intimacy as the paramour or concubine of some white man or men.

In every situation above save (a) the slave woman was ordinarily expected to obey the catechismal injunction "replenish the earth" and thus satisfy if not glorify her lord and master.

It seems that the master's consent was usually necessary in all states mentioned above. We shall first give statements illustrating family life begun without any type of ceremony. Mrs. Sarah Skinner says:

"The masters had the say about their slaves marrying. A man slave would tell his master: I want to marry Sal over on Marse Jones place, and if the master thought it necessary he would consent. If Sal was a good work hand she would have to continue there with her own master and her husband could get a pass to go see her two or three times a week. Sometimes the masters would make exchange of slaves and let the man take his wife with him to his own master's place.

"If Tom wanted Sallie for a wife, he would tell his master that he wanted her for his wife and if the master said that he might have her, Sallie had to become Tom's wife, regardless of her wishes. This constituted marriage.

"There were some marriages among the
(Continued on page 4)